WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for increasing message costs, comprising:

2 receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient address;

3 calculating a delay period, in response to the request;

4 dropping the data link;

5 receiving over the data link a next request to route a message to a recipient

6 address;

7 dropping the data link, if the next request was received during the delay

8 period; and

9 routing the message referenced in the next request to the recipient address, if

10 the delay period has expired.

1 2. The method of claim 1:

2 wherein the calculating element includes calculating the delay period once per

3 day.

1 3. The method of claim 1:

2 wherein the calculating element includes calculating a random delay period.

1 4. The method of claim 1:

2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a transport layer command

3 which closes the data link.

1 5. The method of claim 1:

2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a TCP layer "FIN"

3 command over the data link.

1   6.   The method of claim 1:

2   wherein the dropping element includes closing the data link at a network layer

3   without sending any message back over the data link.

1   7.   The method of claim 1:

2   wherein the dropping element includes silently closing the data link at an IP

3   layer.

1   8.   The method of claim 1:

2   wherein the message is an e-mail message.

1   9.   The method of claim 1:

2   wherein the receiving element includes receiving over the data link a request

3   to route the message from a particular sending computer to the recipient address

4   hosted by a particular receiving computer.

1   10.   A method for increasing message transaction costs, comprising:

2   receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient address;

3   attempting to identify the recipient address; and

4   dropping the data link with the sending computer, if the recipient address can

5   not be identified.

1   11.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the attempting element includes attempting to verify that the recipient

3   address is valid.

1   12.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the attempting element includes attempting to verify that the recipient

3   address known.

1   13.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a transport layer command

3   which closes the data link.

1   14.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a TCP layer "FIN"

3   command over the data link.

1   15.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the dropping element includes closing the data link at a network layer

3   without sending any message back over the data link.

1   16.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the dropping element includes silently closing the data link at an IP

3   layer.

1   17.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the message is an e-mail message.

1   18.   The method of claim 10:

2   wherein the address is an e-mail address.

1　19.　A method for increasing message transaction costs, comprising:

2　　　generating a first set of faux addresses;

3　　　making the faux addresses available;

4　　　receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a faux address within

5　the set of faux addresses; and

6　　　dropping the data link, in response to the receiving element.

1　20.　The method of claim 19:

2　　　wherein the making element includes, publishing the faux addresses on a

3　public network;

1　21.　The method of claim 19:

2　　　wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a transport layer command

3　which closes the data link.

1　22.　The method of claim 19:

2　　　wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a TCP layer "FIN"

3　command over the data link.

1　23.　The method of claim 19:

2　　　wherein the dropping element includes closing the data link at a network layer

3　without sending any message back over the data link.

1　24.　The method of claim 19:

2   wherein the dropping element includes silently closing the data link at an IP

3   layer.

1   25.   The method of claim 19:

2   further comprising, treating the faux address as valid for a predetermined

3   period of time, in response to the receiving element; and

4   wherein the dropping element includes, dropping the data link with the

5   sending computer, after the predetermined period of time has expired.

1   26.   The method of claim 25:

2   wherein the treating element includes providing a faux validation of the faux

3   address back over the data link.

1   27.   The method of claim 26:

2   wherein the providing element includes downloading a file identified within

3   the message.

1   28.   The method of claim 26:

2   wherein the providing element includes downloading an image file identified

3   by an image reference within the message;

1   29.   The method of claim 19:

2   further comprising, treating the faux address as valid until a number of

3   messages addressed to the faux address reaches a first predetermined number within a

4   first predetermined time period; and

5   wherein the dropping element includes, dropping the data link, after the

6 number of messages addressed to the faux address exceeds the first predetermined

7 number within the first predetermined time period.

1 30. The method of claim 29:

2   further comprising, treating the faux address as valid again after the number of

3 messages addressed to the faux address falls below a second predetermined number

4 within a second predetermined time period.

1 31. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

2   generating a next set of faux addresses;

3   repeating the making, receiving, and dropping elements with respect to the

4 next set of faux addresses.

1 32. The method of claim 19:

2   wherein the message is an e-mail message.

1 33. The method of claim 19:

2   wherein the address is an e-mail address.

1 34. A system for increasing message transaction costs, comprising a:

2   means for receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient

3 address;

4   means for calculating a delay period, in response to the request;

5   means for dropping the data link;

6   means for receiving over the data link a next request to route a message to a

7 recipient address;

8   means for dropping the data link, if the next request was received during the

9 delay period; and

10   means for routing the message referenced in the next request to the recipient

11 address, if the delay period has expired.

1 35.   A system for increasing message transaction costs, comprising a:

2   means for receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient

3 address;

4   means for attempting to identify the recipient address; and

5   means for dropping the data link with the sending computer, if the recipient

6 address can not be identified.

1 36.   A system for increasing message transaction costs, comprising a:

2   means for generating a first set of faux addresses;

3   means for making the faux addresses available;

4   means for receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a faux

5 address within the set of faux addresses; and

6   means for dropping the data link, in response to the receiving element.

1 37.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:

2   means for treating the faux address as valid for a predetermined period of time,

3 in response to the receiving element.

1 38.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:

2   means for treating the faux address as valid until a number of messages

3   addressed to the faux address reaches a first predetermined number within a first

4   predetermined time period.

1   39.   The system of claim 38, further comprising:

2   means for treating the faux address as valid again after the number of

3   messages addressed to the faux address falls below a second predetermined number

4   within a second predetermined time period.